

The nation can't afford Republicans' stimulus sabotage

By Jesse Jackson

In his first 10 days in office, Joe Biden launched an intense effort to address the “cascading crises” that America faces. In addition to issuing executive orders to reverse several of Trump’s most poisonous acts—ending federal contracting with private prisons, reviving enforcement of discrimination laws, ending the Muslim ban, re-entering the Paris Climate Accord, and much more—Biden has put forth a bold rescue plan to deal with the human and economic costs of the pandemic. He has declared climate change an existential threat and a national security priority and has promised a renewed effort to address systemic racism and other forms of discrimination.

The question now is whether he will continue to push forward against the resistance of Republicans in the House and Senate and the timidity of the establishment.

The first test is on the pandemic rescue plan. Biden’s \$1.9 trillion plan is constructed to meet specific needs: a major public health drive to get Americans vaccinated and to ramp up testing and tracking and treatment; aid to Americans to counter the continuing economic distress caused by the pandemic with millions facing the end of federal support for unemployment; and emergency assistance to states and cities now facing devastating service cuts to deal with deficits that have exploded



as their economies shut down and their revenues collapsed.

Republicans have denounced the Biden plan from the get-go. Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has promised to filibuster against the plan, forcing it to pass with a supermajority of 60 votes, or through budget reconciliation by a majority vote. Republicans warn against using reconciliation, saying that it would torpedo all efforts at bipartisan cooperation.

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Bipartisan cooperation? Are they totally without memory or shame? These are the same Republican senators who used reconciliation to pass the Trump tax cuts that larded billions in tax breaks on the richest Americans. These are the same Republicans who went along with Trump’s lies, refusing to

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recognize that Biden won the election for weeks, and then voted against even holding a trial for Trump in the Senate after he was impeached for instigating the rioters who broke into the Capitol. Now suddenly, they have the nerve to question Biden's commitment to working across the aisle.

Ten Republicans—only three of whom voted to support a Senate trial on Trump's impeachment—have put forth what is billed as an alternative plan that would cost \$600 billion. It isn't designed to address what's needed; it's designed only to be less.

That would lead to massive layoffs of police, firefighters, teachers, transit workers, and drastic cuts in services in the midst of the pandemic.

Their plan would reduce the amount of support for Americans and reduce the number of Americans eligible for relief, despite the fact that Trump supported Biden's \$1,400 stimulus check figure and Democrats won the election campaigning on it.

Their plan would lower federal unemployment benefits and limit their extension to June. With a

million people a week still filing for unemployment, and the bill unlikely to be passed until March, this will put at risk the millions still unable to find work because of the shutdowns caused by the coronavirus.

Their plan would drastically reduce the funds available for reopening schools safely, and for sustaining public transport in the midst of the crisis.

They offer no reason for these cuts other than complaining that the Biden plan is too expensive.

Somehow for "moderate Republicans" it costs too much to aid working and poor people but never costs too much to lavish billions in tax benefits to fellow millionaires and billionaires.

The country is in crisis. Millions of children go hungry. Tens of millions face eviction or the loss of their homes. A million a week are still filing for unemployment insurance. We are headed toward 500,000 deaths from the coronavirus, with new, more contagious variants now just beginning to spread. This is not a time for timidity or for posturing. It is a time for action.

Communist Parties Denounce Morocco's Attacks on Saharwi Republic

By Emile Schepers

A number of communist and workers' parties from around the world have denounced the arrangement whereby the U. S. will recognize Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara in exchange for the Kingdom of Morocco normalizing its ties with Israel. When Spain decided to give up this colony in 1975, Morocco moved to invade it, despite the expressed wishes of the people of Western Sahara for independence. Since 1991 a cease fire between Morocco and the Polisario Front, the armed forces of the Saharwi Republic, has been in force. But a move in recent months by the Moroccan government to intensify economic exploitation of the part of Western Sahara which it controls is leading to the danger of a major armed clash.

The Communist Party of Israel, or Maki, pointed out that the deal also entails the United States selling four advanced aerial drones to Morocco, and that it is a violation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions. The Israeli communists called the U.S.-Morocco agreement "yet another imperialist move." The Israeli communists recalled that the Kingdom of Morocco has had a long relationship with the Israeli government, which included

Israeli help in the "disappearance" of Moroccan leftist leader Mehdi Ben Barka in 1967.

The South African Communist Party (SACP) expressed once more its solidarity with the people of the Western Sahara. The SACP also called for the African Union to "reject the imperialist machination on our continent, and assert its democratic role . . . on African affairs. . . . It is clear that the Trump administration's proclamation involves other imperialist objectives, not to mention continued colonial oppression of the people of Western Sahara, occupation of their land, exploitation of their resources, the apartheid oppression of the Palestinian people, and occupation of their land by the apartheid Israeli regime."

Morocco escalates attacks on the Western Sahara, Africa's last colony.

First week of Black History Month: Stacey Abrams, BLM nominated for Nobel Peace Prize



By Al Neal

It seems more than fitting that in the first week of Black History Month Stacey Abrams has been nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

Abrams, whose on-the-ground work is credited with boosting voter turnout during the 2020 elections, helping then-presidential candidate Joe Biden secure an historic win in Georgia, was nominated by Lars Haltbrekken, a Socialist elected to Norway's Parliament.

"Abrams' work follows in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s footsteps in the fight for equality before the law and for civil rights," Haltbrekken said. "Abrams' efforts to complete King's work are crucial if the United States of America shall succeed in its effort to create fraternity between all its peoples and a peaceful and just society.

Also nominated for the prestigious prize was the Black Lives Matter movement which has spurred people from all parts of the globe to fight against racial injustice and police brutality.

In a nomination letter, Peter Eide, another member of the Storting, Norway's Parliament, wrote that he had nominated the movement "for their struggle against racism and racially motivated violence."

He added: "BLM's call for systemic change has spread around the world, forcing other countries to grapple with racism within their societies."

Black Lives Matter became a national rallying cry back in 2003 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon

Martin's killer, a former police officer, and continued fighting following the death of George Floyd, 46, at the hands of Minneapolis police in May 2020.

"People are waking up to our global call: for racial justice and an end to economic injustice, environmental racism, and white supremacy. We're only getting started," tweeted BLM, Friday, Jan. 30 after hearing about their nomination.

"For the Nobel Prize Committee, this is not unusual to link a fight for (racial) justice, to link that with peace," Eide said and noted that the Nobel committee has awarded the peace prize to antiracist South Africans, twice—Albert Luthuli in 1960 and Nelson Mandela in 1993. "There will be no peace without justice."

Following a flood of hateful emails from some in the United States, Eide made clear his nomination was "not a comment on domestic American politics."

"If we go 50 years back, those arguments also came up when Dr. Martin Luther King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 – the same arguments," he said.

Other candidates this year include the World Health Organization and climate campaigner Greta Thunberg; as well as Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the "Pentagon Papers" about the Vietnam War, U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, and WikiLeaks.

The 2021 Nobel laureate will be announced in October.

Both have been key to bolstering the struggle for racial justice in the U.S. and around the world.

Vietnamese Communists close their 13th National Congress

By Amiad Horowitz

The Communist Party of Vietnam has ended its 13th National Congress which is the highest governing body of the CPV and meets every five years to decide on a direction for the country and to elect new party leadership.

Among the more important decisions to come out of the 13th Congress was the re-election of General Secretary Nguyễn Phú Trọng for a third term. Trọng has received praise over the past 10 years for the economic and diplomatic successes that Vietnam has had under his leadership and most recently for how that government has managed the COVID-19 pandemic. In a post-congress press conference, Trọng stated that he had considered retiring, but was convinced to stay on for another term.

Trọng and other CPV leaders spoke during the gathering about the character of the event. A press center was set up in the building, where local and foreign press were able to follow the congress. For journalists that could not enter Vietnam due to the pandemic, online feeds were available for them follow the proceedings.

There was a website created for the congress that featured articles and videos in 6 languages. Before the Congress even began, the documents to be discussed by the CPV delegates were released to the public in Vietnam and citizens were free to give feedback and share their opinions on how they felt the CPV should proceed.

Vietnam has found itself increasingly under the spotlight, as the world has taken notice of its economic successes.

The Vietnamese people appear to remain resolute on their path of building socialism in their country.

Haití

Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein,

Los movimientos independentistas en Haití comenzaron en 1790 combinados con insurrecciones de esclavos y levantamientos de mulatos.

Toussaint Louverture destacó como el principal líder deviniendo en padre de la independencia haitiana. .

Toussaint se vio obligado a capitular ante el poderoso ejército francés, pero el proceso independentista y de liberación social haitiano no se detuvo, la insurrección estalló con mayor fuerza bajo el mando de un nuevo jefe, Jean Jacques Dessalines quien desató una guerra a muerte contra los blancos y los franceses hasta el 1° de enero de 1804 cuando se declaró la independencia

La llegada del siglo XX trajo la irrupción de Estados Unidos como poder imperial mundial. El país ya era el más pobre del hemisferio occidental y así ha continuado siendo hasta hoy.

En 1910, Estados Unidos dio inicio a un rosario de intervenciones de todo tipo en Haití. Ese año, el gobierno del presidente republicano William H. Taft envió unidades navales y un cuerpo de la infantería de marina para dar "protección" a un grupo de banqueros que bajó coacción "compró" el Banco Nacional de Haití, manejándolo a partir de entonces como una sucursal de Wall Street. En 1915, el presidente Woodrow Wilson ordenando la invasión de Haití, poniendo su gobierno, ejército, aduanas y finanzas bajo administración de Washington Las tropas de ocupación asesinaron miles de ciudadanos.

En 1957 se entronizó en el poder François Duvalier quien gobernó como presidente vitalicio, protagonizando brutales masacres, persecuciones, detenciones, desapariciones y torturas contra dirigentes opositores y la población. Lo sucedió su hijo quien dio continuidad a las "políticas" de su padre hasta que fue derrocado en 1986.

En junio de 1988 hubo elecciones en las que triunfó Leslie Manigat,. En 1991 fue elegido Jean Bertrand Aristide quien también fue derrocado pero reinstalado en el poder gracias a la presión internacional, pero en 2004, Estados Unidos organizó un golpe de Estado para derrocar a Aristide sumiendo a Haití en una crisis.

Aristide fue secuestrado por las Fuerzas Armadas de Estados Unidos y sacado del país con violencia.

En enero de 2010, se produjo un enorme terremoto que devastó todo el país produciendo más de 300 mil víctimas fatales, 350 mil heridos, un millón y medio de personas sin hogar. Aunque llegó ayuda internacional ella fue insuficiente, al servir solo como argumento para una nueva intervención estadounidense con 20 mil marines.

Hoy, el pueblo haitiano nuevamente está luchando por sus derechos y en contra de la pretensión del presidente títere colocado por Estados Unidos de prolongar ilegalmente el ejercicio del poder, sustentado en la fuerza y la represión que llevan a cabo las organizaciones paramilitares creadas para reprimir la insurrección rebelde..

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523
Email: contact@peoplesworld.org